

MID PROGRAMME ENTRIES 2017

Year 2

ENGLISH

Time allowed 1 hour and 15 minutes

Instructions

- Answer all the questions on the exam paper.
- Write your answers in the space provided.
- Read the instructions carefully.
- Answer each question as clearly and as neatly as possible.
- Total marks: 50





Comprehension (30 marks)

Read the following passage and answer all the questions in full sentences in the spaces provided.

This story takes place in Ancient Roman times, so a few of the words may look strange. There is a glossary at the end of the passage that explains unknown words.

Flavia Gemina solved her first mystery on the Ides of June in the tenth year of the Emperor Vespasian.

She had always **had a knack** for finding things her father **misplaced**: his best toga, his quill pen, and once even his ceremonial dagger. But this time there had been a real crime, with a real culprit.

It was a hot, still afternoon, for the sea breeze had not yet risen. Flavia had just **settled herself** in the garden by the fountain, with a cup of peach juice and her favourite scroll.

“Flavia? Flavia!” Her father’s voice came from the study. Flavia took a sip of juice and quickly **scanned the scroll** to find her place. She would just read one or two lines. After all, the study was so close, just the other side of the fig tree. Her house- like many others in the Roman port of Ostia- had a secret garden at its centre, invisible to anyone on the street. From that inner garden, it was a only a few steps to the dining room, the kitchen, the storeroom, a small bathroom, and the study.

‘Flavia!’

She knew that tone of voice.

‘Coming, father!’ she called. Hastily, she set down her cup on the marble bench and placed a pebble on the open scroll to mark her place.

In the study, her father was desperately searching through various scrolls and sheets of parchment on the cedarwood table. Although her father, Marcus Flavius Geminus, was extremely **competent** aboard his own ship, on land he was hopelessly **absent-minded**.

‘Oh father!’ Flavia tried to keep the impatience out of her voice. ‘What have you lost now?’

‘It isn’t lost! It’s been stolen!’

‘My seal! My amethyst signet-ring! The one your mother gave me!’

'Oh!' She winced. Her mother had died in childbirth several years previously, and they both still missed her desperately.

Flavia touched her father's arm **reassuringly**.

'Don't worry father, I always find things, don't I?'

'Yes. Yes, you do...' He smiled down at her, but Flavia could see he was upset.

Flavia's father planned to sail for Corinth at the end of the week. As a ship owner and captain, it was his responsibility to make sure the **paperwork** was ready.

'I left the study for just a moment' he explained. 'When I returned, the ring was gone. Look: the documents are here. The wax is here. The candle is here, still lit. But my ring is gone!'

'It wasn't the wind, there's no hint of a breeze' Flavia thought, gazing out at the fig tree.

Suddenly her keen grey eyes noticed something. On one of the sheets of parchment-a list of **ships' provisions**-was a faint black mark that was neither a letter nor a number. Without touching anything, Flavia moved her face closer, until her nose was inches from the sheet.

No doubt about it. Someone-or something-had touched the ink while it was still wet and had made this strange V-shaped mark.

At that moment, something rustled and moved in the garden.... In an instant Flavia knew that what she had heard was the thief. Now she must discover who or what it was.

Flavia thought quickly. Without turning her head or making a sudden movement she **surveyed** the study. There were various scrolls stored on shelves along the walls, the wax tablets on the desk would not help her.

She was just about to leave the study quietly when a noise made her hesitate. It was an odd panting sound. She looked nervously around to try and identify where the sound was coming from.

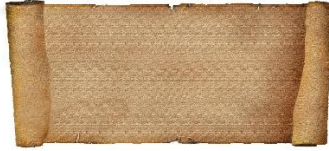
It came from directly outside the door. She moved cautiously towards it and her heart skipped a beat...



Glossary:



1. Toga: a white garment worn in Ancient Rome
2. Scroll: a parchment or 'book' unrolled from side to side as it was read.



3. Vespasian: Roman Emperor.

1. Where does the story take place?

(1 mark)

2. When does the story take place?

(1 mark)

3. Write 2 things that you find out about Flavia from the passage:

(2 marks)

4. What does Flavia's father do?

(1 mark)

5. What happened to Flavia's mother?

(2 marks)

6. How do Flavia and her father feel about it? Find a quote from the passage to support your point.

How they feel: _____

Quote: _____

(2 marks)

7. What did Flavia's father lose? Why was he so upset?

(2 marks)

8. Where is Flavia's father going at the end of the week?

(1 mark)

9. Briefly describe, in your own words, a typical Ancient Roman house as is described in the text.

(3 marks)

10. Explain the meaning of the following words/phrases as they are used in the passage. The words are in bold in the text.

- **Had a knack**

- **Misplaced**

- **Settled herself**

- **Scanned the scroll**

- **Competent**

- **Absent-minded**

- **Reassuringly**

- **Paperwork**

- **Ships' provisions**

- **Surveyed**

(5 marks)

